UNAIDS call for price cut of AIDS drugs

2937. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, recently, UNAIDS called for a price cut for AIDS drugs and the WHO stressed for more funds to check the epidemic in developing world; and

(b) if so, the details of the coordination between his Ministry, UNAIDS and WHO by way of campaign for cheaper AIDS medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. UN General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS was held in New York on 25—27th June, 2001. In its declaration of commitment, it was decided to set up a Global Health Fund for HIV/AIDS prevention and control. The declaration includes:

(i) National strategies are developed to strengthen health care systems and address factors affecting the provision of HIV-related drugs, including anti-retroviral drugs—by year 2003;

(ii) Development & implementation of comprehensive care strategies to strengthen family and community based systems to provide and monitor treatment to PLWHA (People living with HIV/AIDS)—by year 2005;

(iii) To ensure that national strategies are developed by order to provide psyco-social care for individuals, families and communities affected by HIV/AIDS—by year 2003;

India is a signatory to the declaration.

Use of conventional glass syringes

2938. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that conventional glass syringes are more safer then the modern plastic syringes;

(b) if so, the steps Government have contemplated or propose to replace the plastic disposable syringes with glass ones; and

(c) the number of Government Hospitals in the country equipped with incinerators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Experts have opined that properly autoclaved glass syringes and pre-sterilized modern plastic disposable syringes are equally safe.

(b) The matter of possible recycle of used disposable needle and syringes in the healthcare system have been investigated extensively. The discretion to use glass or plastic syringes is vested solely with the user professional, depending on the available facilities. Ideally, it is opined that pre-sterilized disposable needles could be used with both kinds of syringes.

(c) All the Central Government Hospitals in the country are equipped with incinerators.

Renewal of permission to medical and dental colleges

2939. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medical and dental colleges are admitting students to medical and dental courses, despite Government not renewing permissions to about 45 medical/dental colleges across the country for not having achieved the targets or lagging behind in infrastructure;

(b) whether to protect unwary students, State/Universities have been asked to ascertain the status of permission or renewal of permission from Government; and

(c) whether the Medical Council of India and Dental Council of India have also been asked to issue caution notices in the press media for the benefit of student?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The permission for starting new medical and dental college is given initially for a period of one year. It is renewed on an year to year basis on verification of facilities available. The permission for the academic year 2001-02 has not so far renewed in respect of 12 medical and 31 dental colleges. Renewal of permission in case of these colleges will depend on availability of facilities and recommendations of the